

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Rosemary Desisles, Tracy Rosinski, Carl Soderburg, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jerry Polus, Jim Haskins, Elizabeth Everson, Joyce Young, Ed Koslowski, Joe Witkowski, Louise Dahlke
EXCUSED: Bernie Erickson

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1619**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Polus at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

Following the invocation, Jerry Polus introduced Elizabeth Everson and Joyce Young to the Subcommittee. They are with the Roselles of Green Bay, a community service organization.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve or Modify Minutes of May 20, 2014.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Budget Status Financial Report through April 30, 2014.

The financial report was reviewed by the Committee but no action was necessary.

6. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair and review of agenda.

Haskins stated that he attended the most-recent Fair Board meeting and was advised that they would be trying to get a 40' by 60' tent, although they could not guarantee this. The Fair Board also indicated that they would like to have somebody from this Subcommittee in the area of the south gate advising veterans where to park to help alleviate some of the confusion they had last year. Haskins also indicated that he met County Supervisor Corrie Campbell at the meeting and she indicated that she could help publicize the event. Polus indicated that Haskins should advise Campbell to contact Deputy Executive Cora Haltaufderheid who also does publicity on the County's behalf.

Elizabeth Everson indicated that she would probably be able to get some ladies from the Roselles to assist with parking. It was noted that the meet and greet area will open at noon and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and that is the time frame that help would be needed in the parking area.

Polus reported that the posters were not quite ready yet, but he expected a final draft very soon and once he receives it, it will be forwarded via e-mail to the Subcommittee members for their comments and suggestions. Polus was hoping to have the posters and tickets mailed out to the various organizations by the end of June.

Polus continued that he had sent a letter out to various organizations regarding the Fair several weeks ago with a tear off portion to be returned to his office with updated contact information. He has received about 50% of these back as of this time and was hoping that the rest would be returned soon.

The next item discussed was the agenda for the Fair program. Kozlowski passed out a proposed agenda, a copy of which is attached. Polus indicated that Kozlowski's proposed agenda looks like it would take about 1½ hours to complete and he would rather keep the program closer to 1 hour. Dry Hooch was listed as an organization having a table in the tent and Polus asked if they were invited to participate or how they got on the list. Duane Pierce indicated that Dry Hooch was doing a warrior summit in October and wanted to be at the Fair event to promote the summit. Polus stated that he objected to Dry Hooch having a table in the tent for several reasons, one being that they are not a Brown County organization. Polus stated that he does not necessarily like the concept of Dry Hooch as it is in direct contrast to the efforts of the Veterans' Center; however, he would leave it up to this group to make a decision as to whether to include them. A brief discussion was held and it was the feeling of the group not to have Dry Hooch participate.

Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Jim Haskins to not include Dry Hooch in the Fair Event. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Polus reported that the organizations he is aware of that will need tables in the tent are: Homespun Heroes, Zablocki VA Medical Center; VA Regional Office, Heartland Hospice, Department of Veterans Affairs, Vets Center Mobile Van, Job Center, Brown County Veterans Office and Supportive Services for Veterans. He also noted that Schneider's Ride with Pride truck will be there. Polus said he would need 10 tables in the tent as well as three tables up front including one for the door prizes.

Polus continued that the program would start with a welcome and then the posting of colors by the Desert Vets. The Pledge of Allegiance will follow and the bagpiper will follow the Pledge and will be followed by the Star Spangled Banner which will be sung by Laura Nehlsen. Following the Star Spangled Banner a Chaplin will say a prayer and this will be followed by welcome messages and the POW/MIA table ceremony by Rolling Thunder. A flag folding ceremony was discussed but it was decided to delete this from the agenda for time reasons. The posting of a wreath as shown on Koslowski's proposed agenda may also be eliminated due to timing constraints.

Koslowski brought up the idea of reading the names of the 16 soldiers killed from Brown County. He would like to see a brass bell rung as each name is read. The Subcommittee discussed this and felt it was a good idea. Following this portion of the agenda, the Korean Vets would be honored and asked to come forward to receive their certificates. The colors will then be retired and the door prize drawings will be held.

Koslowski stated that he has not been able to get ahold of the band, but he thought the contract had been sent to Jerry Polus for signature. The contract is for the band to play from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and then also following the ceremony. Rosinski stated that Heartland Hospice will pay for the band and it was indicated that Heartland could write a check to the Subcommittee and then the Subcommittee will pay the band.

Jim Haskins and Duane Pierce will handle the door prizes; Rosemary Desisles will be in charge of veterans' certificates.

7. **Discussion and approval re: Award certificate for Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

The Subcommittee felt that the certificate was very nice and it was approved.

8. **Elizabeth Everson – Roselles of Green Bay re: Request volunteer positions at Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

Elizabeth Everson, President of the Roselles of Green Bay, addressed the Subcommittee. She thanked Bernie Erickson for inviting her to come and talk about their organization and what they have done in the past as well as events they have planned for the future. She continued that the Roselles were founded 12 years ago and have a membership of 24 women. She indicated that they are not a 501C but are a community service organization. Part of the Roselles' mission statement is to honor and serve veterans and they provide a number of services to vets throughout the year. For example, they serve a meal every other month in De Pere for disabled veterans. They also go to various nursing homes and assisted living centers to visit with veterans and pass out certificate applications. Once a year the Roselles host a large event which is usually attended by about 250 people. This event is to honor different veterans group. There is a charge for this event however; Everson noted that they do cover the cost for disabled and distressed veterans. This year's event will be held on September 17 at Riverside Ballroom. Mayor Schmitt, Senator Cowles and Senator Hansen will speak as well as Bernie Erickson. The luncheon will also feature stories by veterans, a flag ceremony, MIA POW honors, entertainment and a candlelight ceremony to honor deceased vets. The cost of the event is \$13.50 and all veterans will receive a gift bag.

Everson continued the average age of their members is between 70 – 90 and the oldest members still volunteer. They hold their monthly meetings on the last Friday of the month at the Bay Motel.

9. **Elizabeth Everson – Roselles of Green Bay re: Making announcement on Veterans luncheon in September.**

Everson did not have anything to add to this as it was discussed at Number 8 above.

10. **Therese – Discussion of letter to Festival Foods regarding veterans parking (mail to all four stores).**

A discussion was held regarding the proposed letter that was attached to the agenda to be sent to Festival Foods asking them to designate a parking spot for veterans. Haskins indicated he felt this should be taken a step further and the same letter should be sent to Walmart since they are hiring a large number of veterans.

Several members felt that this was going somewhat overboard while other were in support of it.

It was decided to hold this matter until the next meeting so that Erickson could argue his case.

11. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything to add to what has already been discussed.

12. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

None.

13. **Comments from Tracy Rosinski.**

Rosinski had new business cards that she passed out to those in attendance.

Rosinski was excited to announce that Heartland will be bringing Debra Grassman to Green Bay in September. Grassman is the author of the book *Peace at Last*, stories of hope and healing for veterans and their families. The details of Grassman's visit are not finalized yet, but Rosinski will keep the Subcommittee advised. She indicated that healthcare workers will be invited to see Grassman as it should be an educational experience for them.

14. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, & Witkowski).**

-Haskins indicated that he would like to have Laura Nehlsen receive some sort of commemorative item for singing the National Anthem at the Fair. She is very special to Jim and she is honored to have been asked to do this. Koslowski suggested a certificate of appreciation.

Haskins continued that as of April 12, 2014 there are still 1,642 American service members unaccounted for in Vietnam. He also mentioned that Acuity Insurance Company is putting up the largest free standing flag pole in the United States at 400 feet tall. He further indicated that he had read an article in the paper recently where the paper was asking for vets to appear to have their pictures taken for the Wall of Faces and all vets in Brown County showed up along with a number of vets from other areas as well.

-Louise Dahlke did not have anything to report.

-Joe Witkowski had an article he had cut out of the paper on the Bergdahl situation, but he did not have any further comments on the article.

-Rosemary Desisles reminded the Subcommittee of the Kids Day events that will be held on June 25, and, more specifically, that the Navy League will be set up at the Neville Public Museum along with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Sea Cadets doing various activities with the kids. She also commented on the Honor Run and indicated that this is being put off until next spring.

-Ed Koslowski reported that the AMVETS state convention will be held this weekend. Details and information were contained in last month's meeting minutes. He also reported that there will be a LZ raffle at Pearly Gates this coming Monday.

-Duane Pierce indicated that there will be an event this Saturday morning beginning at 6:00 a.m. behind the veterans' memorial at the Neville Public Museum. Desert vets will be participating in a 12 hour citywide rucksack march to call attention to veteran suicides. The short route will be 10 miles and the long route will be 28 miles. There will also be a silent auction on Saturday at Replay Pub by the Fairgrounds from 1:00 – 7:00 pm with all proceeds being donated to Carry the Fallen. Funds will be used to build a retreat/resort for vets in Kentucky and after that one is completed they are hoping to build more around the country.

Pierce also reported that the annual Vietnam Vets Pearly Gates Ride will be held on July 12 and will honor Desert Storm veterans. The event will feature the ride, fun, food, merriment and live music and live auctions. One of the auction items will be a Desert Storm commemorative pistol. He noted that last year they had 610 cycles and 133 hotrods and they are hoping to have 700 or more this year. The ceremony starts at 11:00 am.

-Ken Corey was also in attendance at the meeting. He has served four tours in Iraq and is active in veterans' issues in the community, as well as being the President of the veterans' association at NWTC. He would like to see the younger veterans getting involved in more

veterans' activities. He stated that he is interested in being an asset to this Subcommittee and was wondering if the veterans' association at NWTC could be included in the Fair event.

Corey also talked about Dry Hooch and indicated that they will be holding an event on October 7 at the Radisson in Green Bay at which they are expecting 500 people. He will forward additional information to this Subcommittee and would also like to see someone from this Subcommittee attend the event which will include making people aware of what is going on for veterans in Green Bay. Discussions will include transition of life from military to civilian life and there will be several breakout sessions focusing on veterans' suicide, spousal support and things of that nature.

Desisles added one more comment and that was that she has recently heard that there will be a LZ in Madison next year and Don Jones who organized the LZ event in Green Bay will also be organizing the Madison event.

15. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

16. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Joe Witkowski to adjourn at 6:02 p.m.

Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary